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RURAL DISTRICT OF TENTERDEN KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1958



## TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1958.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1958.

### Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 7,320 - an increase of 30 over that of the previous year.

### Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 124 - an increase of 13 over that of the previous year, and the crude birth-rate was accordingly 16.94; after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution the rate becomes 18.30 and was higher than that of 16.4 for England and Wales.

### Stillbirths and Rate

Two stillbirths were registered and the rate was accordingly 15.87, and was lower than that of 21.6 for England and Wales.

Assiduous ante-natal care and obstetric skill are required for the prevention of avoidable stillbirths.

### Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Three female infant deaths were registered. These were due to:-

- (1) Pyloric Stenosis (2 months)
- (2) Prematurity (3 days)
- (3) (a) Pulmonary embolism (one month)  
(b) Venous thrombosis  
(c) Hirschsprung's disease.

As for stillbirths, careful ante-natal care and obstetric skill are essential to prevent avoidable infant deaths.

The infantile mortality rate was accordingly 24.19 and was slightly higher than that of 22.5 for England and Wales.

### Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no maternal deaths due to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.

### Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 90 (47 M, 43 F) and the crude death-rate was 12.30; after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, the rate becomes 10.98 and was lower than that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

As would be expected, the chief cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Disease and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, most of which are the natural terminal causes of death amongst the aged. In all there were 68 of those deaths.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart caused 12 or 17.5% of these deaths. Although it is conjectured that prolonged mental stress, or excessive fat intake or excessive smoking may be contributory factors, the primary cause is still obscure. The ages at death ranged from 56 to 91 years.

Cancer, as in previous years, was the second chief cause of deaths, there having been five in all.

Cancer of the Lung or Bronchus caused two of these deaths, one male, aged 67 years, and one female, aged 60 years. It is probable that prolonged and excessive smoking is a contributory factor.

Cancer of the Breast also caused two deaths, although, from the aspects of diagnosis and treatment, the breast is one of the most superficial parts of the body.

With all forms of Cancer, reasonably early diagnosis is the key to the success of treatment, but procrastination by patients who are often senile, concomitant with the insidious nature of the disease, is a common adverse factor.

There was no death from the Infectious Diseases, which as recently as 25 years ago, would have been regarded as very exceptional.

### Infectious Diseases

Throughout the year, the District was free from any of the more serious Infectious Diseases, and only comparatively few of the lesser infectious were notified.

### Whooping Cough

Twelve cases of this infection were notified.

Modern vaccines for protection are available at the Child Welfare Centres or through the family Doctor, and although it is rather early to fully assess their effect, it would appear from a preliminary assessment that a barrier is being placed against outbreaks of the disease.

Broncho-pneumonia is the most serious complication, particularly in infants, in whom also Atelectasis or Collapse of the Lung is another serious complication; infants should therefore be shielded from infection, when the disease is prevalent. These complications, however, occur in less than 0.1% of children.

### Measles

Only two cases of this infection were notified.

Outbreaks usually occur every second year, or when a sufficient number of susceptible children has accumulated. It is most infectious before it is identified by the parents from the appearance of the typical rash, and it consequently spreads very quickly through class-rooms.

As with Whooping Cough, Broncho-pneumonia is its most dangerous complication, but it, too, occurs in comparatively few children.

Gamma globulin is available at the Public Health Laboratory to afford passive immunity, and is occasionally used to protect children who are suffering from some other serious illness.

### Scarlet Fever

Five sporadic cases of this infectious disease were notified. This infection, which was dreaded by our forefathers for its virulence, is now comparatively mild and the majority of cases are treated at home, unless complicated or there is an exceptional social reason.

There is evidence, however, that those strains of Haemolytic Streptococci which cause a sore-throat with or without exudate, but without the appearance of a rash, are becoming more prevalent and that Acute Nephritis with Albuminuria is an occasional complication.



### Acute Primary Pneumonia

Only one case of this illness was notified. Including the secondary Pneumonias, there were eight deaths. These deaths are common amongst the aged who do not respond actively to treatment and in whom Hypostatic Pneumonia is frequently concomitant.

### Puerperal Pyrexia

Few of these notifications are received today, owing to the aseptic techniques employed and the prevention of early Puerperal Sepsis by the prophylactic or therapeutic use of the Sulphonamides or Antibiotics. Only one case was notified.

### Poliomyelitis

No case of this serious infection occurred in the District during the year.

Nine hundred and ninety-nine children, resident in the District, were given their second injection during the year. Although the mass vaccination scheme has not yet been completed, it would appear on the basis of a preliminary assessment that an effective barrier is being placed against outbreaks of the disease.

### Tuberculosis

Four new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified. Two of these cases were discovered by the Mass Radiography Unit which visited the District in May 1958 (See table).

No new cases of Non-Respiratory or Bovine Tuberculosis were notified. The District has been decreed to be within a specified area by the Ministry in which only designated milks may be sold and this has been a great step forward towards the eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis in man.

There were no deaths from any form of Tuberculosis, which is a reflection of the success of modern treatment.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis is being reduced each year. In this respect, the Mass Radiography Service is playing a valuable part by detecting many unsuspected cases who would have become open sources of infection to others.

B.C.G. vaccination is being offered to school-children before leaving school, as adolescence is a very vulnerable age-group.

There is now no waiting list of patients for admission to Sanatoria and the most appropriate form of treatment can be begun without delay.

It is hoped that all the measure now employed against the disease, including those of a social nature, such as the relief of overcrowding and the elevation of the standard of living, will witness the elimination of the disease from the community in the fore-seable future.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Public Health Services and also to thank the staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,  
1, Blenheim Rd.  
Asford,

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1958

Area:- 38,002 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	...	7,320
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	...	...	...	2,580
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£66,195
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£262

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Tenterden Rural District is predominantly agricultural in its character - there are only a few light industries, and generally, social conditions are satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Tenterden Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1.	Live Births	124	56	68	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	16.94 (Adjusted Rate 18.30)	16.4
	(a) Legitimate	120	55	65			
	(b) Illegitimate	4	1	3			
2.	Stillbirths	2	-	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	15.87	21.6
	(a) Legitimate	2	-	2			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3.	Total live and still- births	126	56	70			
4.	Deaths	90	47	43	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	12.30 (Adjusted Rate 10.98)	11.7
5.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not available
6.	Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age	3	-	3	Rate per 1,000 live births	24.19	22.5
	(a) Legitimate	3	-	3	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.0	
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-
7.	Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 live births	8.06	
	(a) Legitimate	1	-	1			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8.	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births					3.23	
9.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	5	
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	-	
	Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	-	
	Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	12
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	5

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT

DURING 1958

ALL CAUSES						Males	Females
						47	43
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	-	-
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	4	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	8	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	1	-
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	18	20
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	4	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	4
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	-	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	-	-



# TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Mortality, 1958

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	31	13	6
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There were no deaths from tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.



MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Service visited the Parishes of Rolvenden, Biddenden, and Woodchurch during May, 1958.

MINIATURE FILMS TAKEN

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
310	352	662

ATTENDING MASS RADIOGRAPHY  
FOR THE FIRST TIME

<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
482	72.81

RESULTS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Active tuberculosis	2	-	2
Inactive tuberculosis	1	-	1
Cancer of lung	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria Immunisation, Whooping Cough Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination figures for 1958 based on record cards.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation		Smallpox Vaccination		Whooping-cough Immunisation
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary	Revaccination	Primary
1958	7	-	19	-	40
1957	62	-	24	-	64
1956	9	1	-	-	16
1955	3	1	1	-	3
1954	-	4	-	-	5
1953	-	28	-	-	1
1952	-	10	-	-	1
1951	-	1	-	-	1
1950	1	3	-	-	-
1949	-	1	-	-	-
1948	-	-	-	-	-
1947	-	-	-	-	-
1946	-	-	-	-	-
1945	-	-	-	-	-
1944	-	-	1	-	-
Before 1944	-	-	-	-	-
Total	82	49	45	-	131

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1958

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1944).

Year of Birth	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether Primary or booster)																
1954 - 1958	2	4	2	5	5	47	55	60	55	105	90	87	78	68	7	670
1953 or earlier	48	59	57	73	61	37	74	53	66	10	-	-	-	-	-	538

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1958

The following table gives the numbers of persons resident in the district who received injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1958.

Year of Birth	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	Others	Total
Given two injections	10	74	77	70	60	69	92	62	47	51	53	59	73	70	57	75	999
Given third injection	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The Mid-Kent Water Company supplies the whole of the area, excepting remote dwellings or homesteads.

There was no contamination in the piped supplies throughout the year but three contaminated well supplies were found and the owners were advised to boil all that intended for drinking purposes.

	<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Raw Water	13	13 Satisfactory	-	-
Treated Water	24	24 Satisfactory	2	2 Satisfactory

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work continued during the year on the new Woodchurch sewerage scheme.

3. Housing

Houses demolished

<u>In Clearance Areas</u> <u>(Housing Act 1957)</u>	<u>Houses</u> <u>Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
Houses unfit for human habitation	-	-	-
Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
<u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>			
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	4	1	1

Unfit Houses Closed

Number

Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	8
Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	-
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	-

Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
After informal action by local authority	9	-
After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Acts	1	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957.	-	-
Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	-	-



Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

Position at end of year	No. of houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
Retained for temporary accommodation	-	-
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under Section 17(2)	-	-
(c) Under Section 46	-	-
Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	-	-

Purchase of Houses by agreement

	No. of houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased in the year	-	-

Improvements and Conversions.

Number of schemes submitted	...	...	...	25
Number of schemes approved	...	...	...	24
Number of houses in approved schemes	...	...	...	26
Total cost of schemes submitted	...	...	...	£14,129-10-5d.
Total Grants made	...	...	...	£6,768- 5-3d.

Number of houses suitable for inclusion in demolition proposals ... 18 (This  
is the number outstanding from 55 included in the Council's  
5 year programme from 31-3-55)

Present new housing programme ... 38

Existing number of unfit houses other than  
(i) above ... 272  
(Unfit but capable of repair)

4. Hop Pickers' Camps

During the season, there were 15 small Camps accommodating 750 persons,  
which were mainly supervised by farmers. Inspections were made by the  
Public Health Inspector before, during, and after occupation.

5. Milk and Dairies

The number of Registered Distributors was 7 and that of Registered Dairies  
was 4.

Licences Granted under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949

	Dealers	Supplementary
Pasteurised	8	1
Sterilised	5	1
Tuberculin Tested (Raw)	3	-

Milk Sampling

	<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>No. of unsatisfactory Samples</u>
Pasteurised	21	-
Tuberculin Tested	11	3
Sterilised	3	-
Biological examination of raw milks	7	-

6. Inspection of Food and Food Preparing Premises

Number of food premises in the area	...	...	30
Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.	...	...	8
Number of inspections of registered food premises.	...	...	308

Food condemned during the year - 8 cwts. 1 qr. 17 lbs. The majority of the food condemned is collected by a Glue Works.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	212	-	31	315	524
No. inspected	212	-	31	315	524
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	-	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7%	-	3%	-	2 1/4%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

7. Sanitary Inspection of the District

Details of inspection work carried out:-

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Defects</u>
Bakehouses	5	31	-
Slaughterhouses	5	208	-
Other food-preparing places	19	114	1
Factories and workplaces	48	135	1
Offensive trades	-	-	-
<u>Total inspections in the year</u>	2,548		

Housing Repairs and Improvements

Baths, lavatory basins, washing accommodation, sinks, etc.	27
Cesspools (abolished, repaired or emptied)	31
Cooking etc., hot water, fireplaces etc.	23
Dampness	9
Drainage (re-constructed or repaired)	32
Floors	9
Doors	1
Food storage	7
Sanitary accommodation (defective or insufficient)	32
Staircases	2
Water supply	1
Roofs, chimneys, rainwater pipes	1
Walls	3
Windows and ventilation	7
Yards and paving	3
Miscellaneous	28

8. Rent Act, 1957

Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	5
Number of Certificates issued	5

9. Rodent Control

Survey and treatment of all premises in the area was carried out and 146 infestations (not including re-treatments), received attention.

These were made-up as follows:-

Discovered on survey	76
Reports to Office	70

10.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	33	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	34	90	1	-
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	12	-	-
Total	48	135	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	1	-